

Storefront News for 1998-99 Season

Storefront Events for 1998-99 Season

M U F
February - March, 1999

Kyong Park, the founder and director of the Storefront for Art and Architecture since 1982, has moved his base of operations to Detroit in order to concentrate on Storefront's special project *Home Made in Detroit*. There he will be working closely with other institutions and community members to realize this collaborative project. A profile of the Detroit project will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

Shirin Neshat, co-director of the Storefront since 1986, has moved on to devote time to her own work as an artist. Shirin will continue to serve as an advisor to Storefront.

To ensure that Storefront continues to provide innovative programs and maintain its critical position in the art and architecture communities, the Board of Directors has hired **Sarah Herda** to be the new Managing Director. Most recently the Director of Sales and Marketing at The Monocelli Press, Sarah was also the Director of the Art and Architecture Exhibition Space/Center for Critical Architecture (CAES/CICA) in San Francisco, from 1995-1997.

Yves Brunier

March - April, 1999

Storefront will present a posthumous exhibition of the work of the French landscape designer **Yves Brunier**. Brunier's work compels recognition of the practice of landscape architecture; in part because of the unique bridges he made between architecture and landscape. His representations of landscape are the most accomplished of any, notwithstanding the brevity of his career, curtailed by his death in 1991 at age 29. His collaborations with architects Rem Koolhaas and Jean Nouvel redefined the exchange between architecture and landscape architecture. His work transgresses the expectations and distinctions of landscapes relationship to architecture and anticipates its role as a connective urban tissue.

C r i m s o n
May - June 1999

Crimeson is a Rotterdam-based office of architectural historians specializing in the analysis and documentation of the invisible forces that shape the contemporary city. Working both with municipal authorities, such as the Rotterdam City Planning Department, and as an independent research and design bureau, Crimeson has published numerous articles, books, and studies which focus on the impact that, for example, such seemingly abstract concerns as immigration policy or shopping patterns have on the physical environment. Crimeson's focus is thus not on formal design solutions, but is instead on analyzing and transforming the conditions under which any design solution must necessarily operate in order to be successful. Their approach is a hybrid approach which discloses the importance of abstraction in the maintenance of the physical environment. It is this focus on the seemingly invisible tangle of economic, cultural, political, and policy forces that shape the Netherlands. Crimeson will present at Storefront their most recent work, "Prostitution Zones", a project in The Netherlands. The exhibition will consist of documenting, analyzing, and interrogating this incredibly complicated policy issue precisely through conventional architectural means - by representation, images and models.

The Storefront Prize
July 1999

Storefront will sponsor an open submission student competition and the winners will be featured in an exhibition at Storefront. It will provide students of architecture and urban design with a unique opportunity to have their work presented and evaluated outside of their respective institutions. By presenting the Storefront Prize we hope to engage in the active investigation and promotion of the future community of architectural thinkers and practitioners. The results of the competitions will be published in a special edition of the newsletter. Submission details and deadlines will be announced in February 1999.

Storefront for Art and Architecture is a non-profit organization committed to presenting and communicating innovative positions on arts, architecture and design through provocative and interdisciplinary public programs, in the form of exhibitions, conferences, publications and special projects.

STOREFRONT FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE

97 KENNEDY STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10012, U.S.A.

P. 212.431.5795 F. 212.431.5755 E. INFO@STOREFRONTNEWS.ORG

October 13, 1998 - January 11, 1999

Reception October 13, 1998 6 - 8 pm
Gallery Hours: Tues. - Sat., 11am-6pm

Claude Lévéque

untitled

Claude Lévéque's installation at Storefront is presented in conjunction with the exhibition

Premises: Invested Spaces in Visual Arts, Architecture, and Design from France, 1958-98

Premises proposes a speculative and thematic approach to the past forty years of artistic and architectural practices concerned with the notions of site, location, territory, and the built environment.

Premises is the result of a unique collaboration between the curatorial teams of the Guggenheim Museum and the Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou, on view at the Guggenheim Museum Soho.

Claude Lévéque's installation is made possible with the support of the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Storefront for Art and Architecture is supported by

The Stephen A. and Diana L. Goldberg Foundation, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts, The Greenwall Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Friends.



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13 October 1998 - 11 January 1999
OPENING RECEPTION October 13, 6-8pm

an installation by Claude Lévéque

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FORM

I would like to make a contribution of \$
My contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law and the check is made payable to Storefront for Art & Architecture, 97 Kennedy Street, NYC, 10012

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Photo (this page): Untitled, 1980
Installation en site, Le Point, Tentes shopping cart, Realizing a public intervention
Collection Le Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

Photo is engaged by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation.
HUGO BOSS is the sponsor of Premises in part of its ongoing support of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. Transportation services is provided by Air France. DVD production and integration is provided by Zuma Digital.

"In his installations Claude Lévéque proves a skilful manipulator of the unresolved tension between the abject and the marvellous, the vulgar and the exceptional, the anodine and the decisive, the delectable and the repugnant, the tender and the wild. They set up an interference amidst fact, scramble common sense, jam conformity and introduce otherness: they make reality unreal, beautiful."²



Photograph credits for pages two and three
from left to right

Untitled, 1988
"Je trou dans la tête"

Troubles, 1997
Installation on site
Kasseler Kunstraum, Kassel

My Way, 1996
Installation on site
ARC - Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Background image:
"I wanna be your dog", 1998
Atelier Sainte-Anne, Brussels

My Way, 1996
Installation on site
ARC - Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Whirlwind, 1998
Installation on site
Büdelsche Galerie, Bremen

Appartement occupé, 1994
[Rebel] Bourges

Photograph credit page four

More Light, 1998 (detail)
Installation on site
Villa Ariane, Nice

Drawing (background)
Storefront NYC, 1998
for Installation on site

Untitled, 1998

Storefront for Art and Architecture

Bleak private apartments, empty coat-check rooms, abandoned public spaces, unused municipal swimming pools: these are some of the spaces Claude Lévéque's work has occupied over the years. Lévéque transgresses the boundaries of the white cube, severing the dependence on codified, sanctified spaces framed by museum walls.

From his first one-person show at Galerie Eric Fabre in 1984 to a more recent project designed for a concert hall in Brussels [Atelier Sainte Anne, 1996], Lévéque has constructed a body of work from a scant material vocabulary. At times his interventions are nearly invisible, manipulating a room's illumination, scattering pieces of clothing, adding a disco ball or randomly hanging strands of lights to a space. Lévéque infuses the ambience of a given place with a sense of a brutally interrupted event: his early silent spaces suggest that the music has just been shut off, and the visitor has the impression he or she has missed the end of the party. When music does figure into his work, it spans the range of his obsessions, from the Sex Pistols to German techno-fusion like Atari Teenage Riot. Lévéque does not hesitate to harness the energy of fashion, the use of current music invests his work with the timely force of a youth culture rebellion. These forms are not appropriated. The present tense is pushed to its own ends.

Alison M. Gingeras and Bernard Blistène
From our Perspective: Assistant Spaces in Visual Arts:
Architectures and Design from France, 1998 (ill Catalogue)

¹ Benjamin H. D. Buchloh, "Critical Realism / Activist Cinema, 1987".
² Eric Troncy, "The University of the World" in Claude Lévéque, *My Way* (int.
int.), Paris, ARC - Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1998.

Bernard Blistène is Chief Curator and Deputy Director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Alison Gingeras is an Assistant Curator at the Guggenheim Museum.

Claude Lévéque -Who is where?

Claude Lévéque finds themes and artistic devices for his work in the actual places, objects, situations, and events which are in his surroundings, the varied milieu of the suburbs of Paris, on the street or in politics. There, the traces of life are continuous, full of that which constitutes daily violence at home in the crib ["Je trou dans la tête", 1986], at the big party which leaves behind a ravaged room, in which

only the disco ball continues to innocently spread its magical light, ["I wanna be your dog", 1986, Brussels] to the consciousness of great and small bourgeois dreams and fears, the atom bomb as a decorative neon line [Installation, 1993] or Mickey Mouse with the NS-Concentration Camp Auschwitz motto "Arbeit macht frei" as a speech bubble, ["Arbeit macht frei", 1992]

After coming to Paris, he became interested in Joseph Beuys and Christian Boltanski who, next to the Nouveau Réalisme Movement, made the strongest impression on him. Yet there are important differences in the use of the material, place, and the interest in history

To begin with, Claude Lévéque defines the point of view and line of sight as a photographer, calling to mind Weegee's New York. Yet his observations and discoveries do not serve to invent a sensational picture or a horrible staging of a realistic environment, but the observation of and respect for the object, the place, the situation as the sign of the use of life, of persons, of emotions and events, of memory and history. Claude Lévéque reads that which is present as a symbolic sign of a self forming question. Thus the teddy bear defends himself with a note on his belly: "ai rien à perdre - je suis dé ja mort". It is fascinating to note that even with all of his

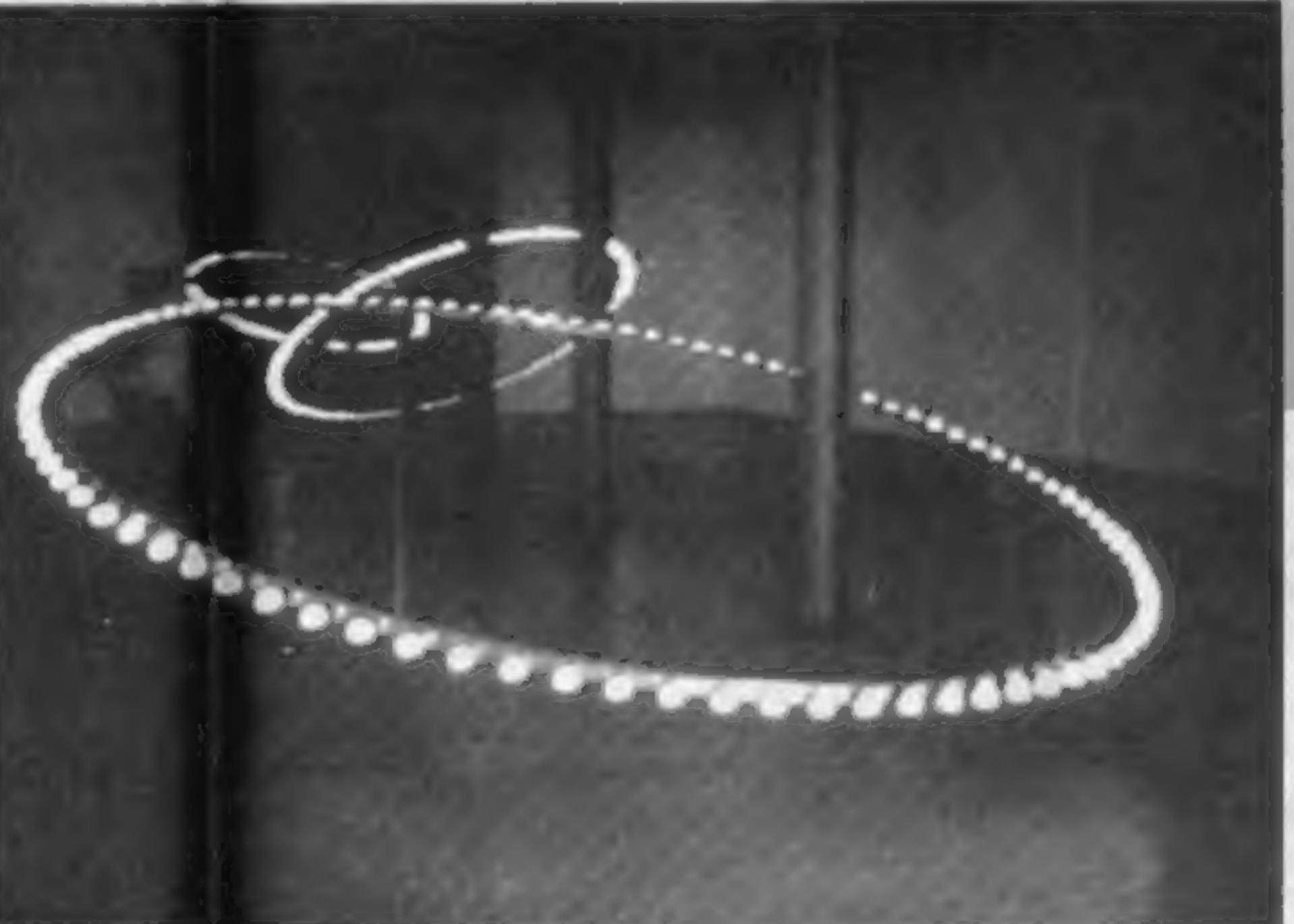
"realism", he has never adopted a cynical or ironic posture, is not at all pedagogical or didactic, but shows objective compassion... in all its

seventy

The abandoned mattress, vertically placed, multiplies itself to small paths and 'sleeping rooms'. Their bleached color in the harsh neon light combined with the private bed smell, releases associations of childhood caves to underground parking decks. The flower on the wallpaper is a green neon light, blinking on the wall and window. It signalizes. The flat is occupied - by the artist.

Claude Lévéque's work in neon have been, from the beginning, his most contradictory signs - even if they are only a detail of his installation. For example, "cerveau labyrinth en tube néon clignotant" (1993). The eye searches for possible ways between the trembling, twisting paths of the brain, between broken and overlapping neon lines, without finding a significant direction. He constructs the nervous system or twisting brain in square, hand painted forms. The right half of the brain blinks like a metaphorical neon sign and colors the room red and orange in the manner of pulsating thought.

Yet Claude Lévéque's theme always remains a graspable and traversable reality. It is the objectivity which makes the "visitor's" sensual experience so ambivalent. He cannot remain outside; he must participate. Appartement Occupé was the playground or labyrinth in which one was forced to walk, stand still and climb. Even My Way (1996, Paris) was a marathon through various rooms organized in a circle, a parcours of being. His installation, Troubles, in Kassel, is the path through a labyrinth of transparent white cloths, blind in a dense fog with which the early gothic space of the church is filled.



The aggressiveness in his production is not real, it originates in the projection of the observer, of those who read the stories or invent something out of the pictures in their heads - the objects have, in the meantime, become truly dead. The situation, recognized as production, becomes a topic, the arrangement becomes an artistic composition

The relationship between documentary and representational methods, of the placement of quotes and signs, remains ambivalent: In Appartement Occupé (1994, Paris) the setting is a vacant apartment in a new development. Everything explains itself at first, does not need to be changed in order to be evident and aesthetic. The distinct, the block of houses, the playground, the vacant apartment, the flowery wallpaper, etc. In a type of overlapping, Claude Lévéque offers an artistic answer to their ever present theme.

Troubles - Where am I here anyway?
By Bernhard Balkenhol